VZCZCXYZ0001 PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHFR #0008 0051407 ZNR UUUUU ZZH P 051407Z JAN 10 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7998 INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0937 RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 7152 RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0562 RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 7311 RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 3129 RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 1876 RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0022 RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0610 RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 9290 RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 1892 RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 3279 RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 0246 RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1117 RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0005

UNCLAS PARIS 000008

SENSITIVE SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV EAID AF FR

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN MOU: UPDATED INTERIM RESPONSE

11. (SBU) Post has followed up with the GOF on the interim response reported in reftel A to points in reftel B. On January 5, Francois Delmas, action officer from the interagency Afghanistan and Pakistan Cell, said that delayed transmission of the draft MOU from the French Embassy in Kabul to Paris and a lack of personnel over the Christmas and New Year holidays had unfortunately slowed the French reply. However, he said the French Joint Staff was currently leading an interagency effort to draft a detailed official response to the MOU, and stressed that, while he could not offer substantive comment at this time, the delay was purely bureaucratic and not a tactic to express disapproval with the MOU. Adding that it was clear that this issue was of critical importance to Washington, Delmas said he would encourage GOF stakeholders to expedite the process. PEKALA